Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A surgical snare device, comprising:

a tubular sheath having a proximal end region and a distal end region;

a shaft extending through and movable relative to the sheath, the shaft having a distal end that is disposed adjacent to the distal end region of the sheath;

a swivel having a first end and a second end, the first end being coupled to the distal end of the shaft; and

a snare loop coupled to the second end of the swivel, the snare loop being disposed at the distal end region of the tubular sheath wherein the snare loop includes one or more proximal legs directly connected to the second end of the swivel.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) The snare device of claim 1, wherein the shaft is moveable between a first position where the snare loop is substantially disposed within the sheath and a second position where the snare loop substantially extends distally out of the distal end region of the sheath.

4. (cancelled)

5. (withdrawn) The snare device of claim 1, wherein the snare loop includes a plurality of proximal legs that are connected to a coupling member.

6. (withdrawn) The snare device of claim 5, further comprising a linking shaft coupled to and extending between the coupling member and the second end of the swivel.

7. (original) The snare device of claim 1, wherein the snare loop includes a braid.

8-19. (cancelled)

20. (withdrawn) A snare loop device, comprising:

a sheath having a proximal end region and a distal end region;

a shaft extending through and movable within the sheath, the shaft having a distal end;

a swivel having a first end and a second end, the first end being coupled to the distal end of the shaft;

a snare loop having a plurality of proximal legs, the legs being coupled to a linking shaft;

wherein the linking shaft is coupled to the second end of the swivel; and

wherein the swivel is configured to permit rotation of the snare loop relative to the shaft.

21. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 20, wherein the legs are coupled to the linking shaft by a connector.

22. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 20, further comprising a handle coupled to the proximal end region of the sheath.

23. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 20, wherein the shaft is moveable between a first position where the snare loop is substantially disposed within the sheath and a second position where the snare loop substantially extends distally out of the distal end region of the sheath.

24. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 20, wherein the snare loop includes a braid.

25. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 20, wherein the swivel include a swivel body.

26. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 25, wherein the linking shaft is attached to a first bearing disposed within the swivel body.

27. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 26, wherein the first bearing is fixedly attached to the swivel body.

28. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 26, wherein the first bearing is rotatable within the swivel body.

29. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 28, wherein the legs extend through a second bearing that is fixedly attached to the swivel body.

30. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 28, wherein the shaft is attached to a third bearing.

31. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 30, wherein the third bearing is fixedly attached to the swivel body.

32. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 30, wherein the third bearing is rotatable within the swivel body.

33. (withdrawn) A method for removing a polyp, comprising the steps of:

providing a self-orienting snare loop device, the device including a sheath, a shaft disposed within the sheath, a handle coupled to the sheath and the shaft, a swivel having a first end region coupled to a distal end region of the shaft, and a snare loop coupled to a second end region of the swivel;

configuring the device so that snare loop is disposed in the sheath;

advancing the sheath through a body lumen to a position adjacent a polyp;

moving the shaft so that the snare loop extends distally from the sheath;

orienting the snare loop by engaging the polyp with the snare loop; and

proximally retracting the snare loop into the sheath, thereby cutting the polyp.

34. (withdrawn) The method of claim 33, further comprising the step of delivering current to the snare loop.

35. (withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of delivering current to the snare loop includes delivering mono-polar current.

36. (withdrawn) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of delivering current to the snare loop includes delivering bipolar current.

37. (currently amended) A self-orienting snare loop device, comprising:

a tubular sheath having a proximal end region and a distal end region;

a shaft disposed within the sheath, the shaft having a distal end that is disposed adjacent to the distal end region of the sheath;

a handle coupled to the proximal end region of the sheath;

wherein the handle include a sliding member, the sliding member being coupled to the shaft such that movement of the sliding member results in movement of the shaft;

a swivel coupled to the distal end of the shaft, the swivel including a swivel body;

wherein the swivel is disposed adjacent the distal end region of the sheath; and

a snare loop coupled to the swivel, the snare loop being disposed at the distal end region of the tubular sheath, wherein the snare loop includes one or more proximal legs wherein at least a portion of the one or more legs is disposed within the swivel body.

38. (cancelled)

39. (currently amended) A snare loop device, comprising:

a sheath having a proximal end region and a distal end region;

a shaft extending through and movable within the sheath, the shaft having a distal end;

a swivel having a first end and a second end, the first end being coupled to the distal end of the shaft;

a snare loop having a plurality of proximal legs, wherein at least a portion of the legs ~~being coupled to~~ is disposed within the second end of the swivel; and

wherein the swivel is configured to permit rotation of the snare loop relative to the shaft.

40. (previously presented) The snare loop device of claim 39, further comprising a handle coupled to the proximal end region of the sheath.

41. (previously presented) The snare loop device of claim 39, wherein the shaft is moveable between a first position where the snare loop is substantially disposed within the sheath and a second position where the snare loop substantially extends distally out of the distal end region of the sheath.

42. (previously presented) The snare loop device of claim 39, wherein the snare loop includes a braid.

43. (previously presented) The snare loop device of claim 39, wherein the swivel include a swivel body.

44. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 43, wherein the proximal legs are attached to a first bearing disposed within the swivel body.

45. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 44, wherein the first bearing is fixedly attached to the swivel body.

46. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 44, wherein the first bearing is rotatable within the swivel body.

47. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 46, wherein the legs extend through a second bearing that is fixedly attached to the swivel body.

48. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 46, wherein the shaft is attached to a third bearing.

49. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 48, wherein the third bearing is fixedly attached to the swivel body.

50. (withdrawn) The snare loop device of claim 48, wherein the third bearing is rotatable within the swivel body.